

## The History

- A collaboration that began in 2014 between the Early Learning Center, HCPL, Early Childhood council, Henderson Co. Parks and the Farmers Market.
- The goal of the program was to bring together nature, healthy eating and literacy to our families during the summer months.
- The first session of summer reading, we were in a small shelter but quickly realized we would need to move to a larger location and find additional funding due to large attendance.

# Community Partners

- Henderson County Early Childhood Council
- Henderson County Public Library
- o Thelma B. Johnson Early Learning Center
- o Family Resource Centers for Henderson County Schools
- o Child Nutrition Program of Henderson County Schools
- Henderson Farmer's Market/Voucher program
- Henderson Parks and Programs
- o City of Henderson
- Better Bites of Henderson County
- o Henderson Family Magazine
- o Cairo Elementary
- Henderson County Childcares



# The Program

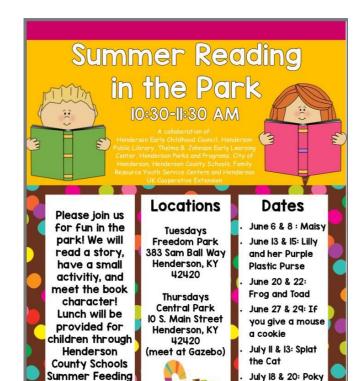
#### 12 Sessions

- o 6 weeks
- Tuesday at County Park and Thursday at City Park

#### At each Session:

- o Storytime
- Meet and Greet with Character
- Activity
- Kindergarten Readiness Skill
- Giveaways
- o Free used book
- Better Bites
- Lunch is provided
- Bookmobile is available





Please Call TBJ ELC at 270-854-0140 for more information

Little Puppy

Program!

## How this program works!

#### What you will need

- Crafts and supplies (Oriental Trading)
- Books (Donations for used books and Amazon for new prize books)
- Giveaways (Amazon and private donations)
- Microphone and speaker
- Book character costume (Costume Specialist)
- Staff and volunteers
- Lunch

### Crafts!

Crafts and supplies (Oriental Trading)

- o simple
- o self-contained
- o Peel and stick is a wonderful thing!
- o Snacks can supplement craft if they go with the story







### Books!

Free book table (Gently used books)

- Books weeded from your collection.
- Donations from schools and families.



Prize books-Several copies of books are purchased to go along with the book character.

- o Books are distributed by drawings, typically
- Occasionally, each family in attendance leaves with one copy, depending on attendance and the amount of copies we have.



#### Sound and Characters!

- Microphone and speaker- Depending on the size of your crowd, the location of your program and the storytellers voice, you may want to consider a sound system of some type.
- Speaking from experience reading a story to a huge crowd, without a microphone, is very hard on your voice and your audience's ears.
- Book Characters- Costume Specialist is where we borrow our costumes. You pay for the shipping and they do the rest.

www.costumepecialists.com





#### Staff!

#### What you will need

- Staff and volunteers- All hands on deck!
- o This program works much easier when you have many helpers, but that is not always possible!
- Skeleton Crew will do!
- o It can be done with a few as four!
- o Make sure you have someone to wear the costume!
- o Teen volunteers!- Utilize them!





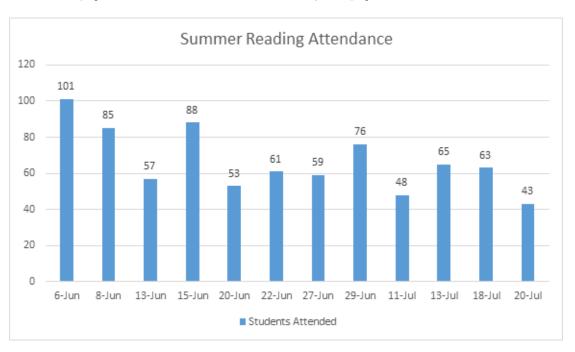




## Lunch!

- o Provided by the Henderson County Schools Summer Feeding program.
- o A healthy sack lunch is provided every Tuesday and Thursday at both parks.

## Total Attendance: 799



<sup>\*</sup>Attendance does not include children served at private childcare facilities\*



# How the program has developed over the years!

- Since our program has progressed over the last few years, we have added additional elements. This
  year we had Tales and Scales perform for our students!
- While at the county park, we were able to have our city bus extend their route to allow for parents to be transported to Summer Reading in the Park.
- We have also added more partners to the program. (i.e city parks, better bites, local childcares)

## How do we pay for this?

- o Early Childhood Council grant funds pay for materials, books, costumes, and entertainment.
- o In kind from Family Resource Coordinator, Principal and some other school staff.
- Donations
- Lunch is provided through the schools
- o Parks are free of charge

#### PARTNERSHIPS ARE POWERFUL AND PERSONAL



#### RESULTS OF AN IMPRESSIVE PARTNERSHIP

- o It's sound fiscal sense for schools and public libraries to pool their limited resources
- We're in an era that institutions need to look and see who they can partner with and strategically use each other's assets
- o What the kids get is wonderful open access to lots of resources









#### **Contact Information**



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